



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING COMMAND
MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER
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COMBAT CENTER BULLETIN 6280

From: Commanding General
To: Distribution List

Subj: WEST NILE VIRUS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Encl: (1) Responsible Organizations
(2) Flyer - Dead Bird Protocol

1. Situation. West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne pathogen that was first detected in New York State in 1999 and has since spread across the continental United States. The virus can infect humans and in rare cases can be fatal. Infants, elderly, and the infirm are at highest risk of severe illness and death. In nature, birds are most vulnerable to WNV and the virus has the potential to decimate their populations. Horses and other mammals are also susceptible; very recent and tentative findings show that the virus may even affect reptiles. This is a concern to the Combat Center because this may affect the threatened desert tortoise. It is important to note, due to low vector (mosquito) populations, it is unlikely that WNV will affect the Combat Center as much as other areas.

2. Mission. Develop a response and prevention plan, to include the following:

a. Widespread public education and outreach with emphasis on preventing mosquito breeding and protection from mosquito biting.

b. Focused education and outreach to pet owners (especially horse owners).

c. Vaccination of privately owned horses is highly recommended in accordance with guidance from the U.S. Army Veterinary Command (VETCOM).

d. Monitoring of all areas for increased/unexplained wildlife mortality.

e. Blood/specimen testing and reporting of results.

f. Dissemination of results to appropriate authorities.

3. Execution. The responsible organizations and actions to be taken are listed in the enclosures.

4. Administration and Logistics. Distribution Statement A-1 directives issued by the Commanding General are distributed via e-mail. This Bulletin can be viewed at <http://www.29palms.usmc.mil/dirs/manpower.adj.index.asp>.

5. Command and Signal

- a. Signal. This Bulletin is effective the date signed.
- b. Command. This Bulletin is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.


J. D. NICHOLS
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION: A-1

Responsible Organizations

1. Base Veterinary Services

- a. Primary office to be contacted by other organizations and residents.
- b. Specimen collection point (primarily birds).
- c. Determine need for additional testing.
- d. Packaging and shipping of samples for laboratory testing. The lab facility in San Bernardino, CA, will not accept specimens 15 November-30 March.
- e. Monitoring and reporting test results to Preventative Medicine, Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms (NHTP), and Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) Division.
- f. Coordinate reports of results to appropriate federal, state, and county agencies.
- g. If required, coordinate and implement an animal vaccination program.
- h. Monitor horses for signs of WNV.

2. Installations and Logistics (I&L) Directorate

- a. Facilities Maintenance Division (FMD), Pest Control
 - (1) Monitor vector infestation.
 - (2) Recommend/implement vector control measures.
 - (3) As required, coordinate vector control with local agencies.
 - (4) Develop/implement abatement strategy.
- b. Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division (NREA)
 - (1) Species identification for Migratory Bird Treaty Act reporting.
 - (2) Coordinate dead bird calls with Veterinary Services. Collect and transport specimens to Veterinary Services during normal business hours.
 - (3) Coordinate State and Federal Endangered Species Act/Migratory Bird Treaty Act requirements.
 - (4) Develop and distribute WNV information.
- c. Wastewater Treatment Plant. Report dead birds to Veterinary Services and NREA.
- d. Center Housing
 - (1) Minimize excessive watering and associated runoff.

ENCLOSURE (1)

- (2) Ensure sources of standing water are eliminated.
- (3) Resident education.
- (4) Distribution point for WNV flyer.
- (5) Report dead birds to Veterinary Services and NREA.

e. Fire Department. Report dead birds to Veterinary Services and NREA.

3. Other Directorates and Divisions

a. Preventive Medicine (NHTP)

- (1) Monitor disease spread and human impacts.
- (2) Assist with education efforts.
- (3) Monitor any developments toward human vaccinations.
- (4) Distribution point for WNV flyer.
- (5) Develop an Emergency Vector-borne Disease Control Plan in which the medical department will coordinate response to an outbreak of disease.

b. Public Affairs Officer (PAO)

- (1) Public Information/news releases.
- (2) Observation Post article. Optimum timing for article is late January/early February of each year. NREA Division will assist.
- (3) Base-wide speedcall.
- (4) Distribution point for flyer.

c. Provost Marshal's Office (PMO). Report dead birds to veterinary services and NREA. Serve as secondary contact office when Veterinary Services is closed. Collect and deliver specimens to Veterinary Services or refer to NREA during normal business hours.

d. Marine Corps Community Services Directorate (MCCS)

- (1) Coordinate horse management issues with veterinary services.
- (2) Distribution points for flyer.
- (3) Report dead birds to Veterinary Services and NREA.
- (4) Minimize excessive watering and associated runoff.

Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command, Twentynine Palms, CA

West Nile Virus Prevention and Response **DEAD BIRD REPORTING PROTOCOL**



What do I do if I find a dead bird?

NOTE: It is strongly suggested that only veterinary, public health, or wildlife professionals handle dead birds (or other wildlife). If you must touch a carcass, wear gloves.

1. **Call Veterinary Services (US Army) at (760) 830-6896.** Provide your name and contact information as well as the location of the dead bird. If after hours, leave that same information in a detailed message, then call the Provost Marshal Office at (760) 830-6800.

2. **Wait for MAGTFTC to respond.** Do not touch the carcass, but attempt to protect it from children, dogs, cats, coyotes, etc. If you are unable to wait for official personnel, put on a pair of gloves, double wrap the carcass in plastic and place on ice in a cooler or in a refrigerator isolated from food. **Do NOT freeze the carcass!**

Not all carcasses will be in condition to be tested for West Nile Virus (WNV), but MAGTFTC will record ALL dead bird reports regardless of carcass condition and will determine if WNV testing is appropriate.

The California Department of Health Services (DHS) is particularly interested in ravens and other corvid species (e.g. jays, magpies, crows, etc).

Veterinary Services will contact DHS as needed, coordinate all testing and will distribute results as appropriate. Most birds will not be accepted for testing between November and April.

Your participation in this surveillance effort is greatly appreciated.
If you have questions, please call:

Veterinary Services
(760) 830-6896, Mon-Fri 0800-1600

Additional information is available by calling
Tel. (877) WNV-BIRD (968-2473)
Or by visiting <http://www.westnile.ca.gov/>

ENCLOSURE (2)